



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

“NOW IS THE TIME FOR BOLD ACTION”
MAYOR PEREZ SAYS
PUTTING HARTFORD RESIDENTS TO WORK IS JOB ONE!

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---

(March 9, 2009)--- Mayor Eddie A. Perez unveiled his bold and strategic plan that will create jobs, stimulate the local economy, and help Hartford steer its way through what he called “the roughest financial waters since the Great Depression.”

“The choice is clear. Either we can stand still, put our heads in the sand and be devastated by this economic tsunami. Or we can move forward and choose to work together and continue to steer Hartford in the right direction by making tough decisions that will better position us when our economy recovers,” said Mayor Perez.

The four major initiatives focus on job creation and families:

1. **Accelerating City Capital Construction Projects---** In the next 90 days, more than \$175 million in construction projects will flow to the City’s neighborhoods. These projects will put hundreds of residents to work at good union wages with benefits. This effort will echo President Obama’s call to action to create jobs.
2. **Establishing the Hartford Arts Stimulus---** This will create an estimated 200 jobs in an industry that pumps more than \$189 million into the local economy. Mayor Perez is proposing \$1.7 million in grants to Hartford Arts organizations to create new works, new performances and enhance facilities. The funding would come from reprogrammed City funds and Federal grants and will be used exclusively to create jobs.
3. **Providing Home Foreclosure Relief---** A temporary half-mill tax is being proposed to provide new funding to help families in foreclosure keep their homes and provide emergency assistance to shelters and agencies that serve Hartford families with young children who have lost their homes through no fault of their own.
4. **Maintaining Core City Services---** Mayor Perez pledged to continue efforts to reduce crime, increase academic achievement, and keep neighborhoods clean and safe. Overall serious crime is down almost 10-percent in 2008, 16 schools showed significant academic improvements last year, and the City utilized strong community partnerships to obtain these goals.

Mayor Perez emphasized that continuing Hartford’s positive momentum will entail “putting politics and personal agendas aside” as well as “more pain and more sacrifice.” The Mayor will present his proposed budget to Council in six weeks. While cost savings are still being maximized, the Mayor has already called this his “toughest budget ever.”

“It will be a bare minimum budget. I ask you to work with me on a two-year outlook that prioritizes public safety, job creation, education, and provides essential core services that our residents and businesses need.”